Railway	Number of special checks headed by Magistrates	Number of ticketless passengers nabbed during magisterial checks	Amount recovered (Rs. in crores)
Central	629	16829	0.27
Eastern	7819	17413	0.06
East Central	156	7157	0.15
East Coast	245	1887	0.02
Northern	567	12256	0.39
North Central	1701	22343	0.79
North Eastern	1187	14052	0.32
Northeast Frontier	694	1469	0.05
North Western	1258	1627	0.04
Southern	687	60446	1.23
South Central	748	22251	0.35
South Eastern	215	6505	0.07
South East Central	21	1590	0.01
South Western	90	65	0.01
Western	3838	5677	0.06
West Central	1127	17916	0.15
TOTAL	20982	209483	3.97

Booking of railway tickets on mobile phones

602. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced the booking of railway tickets on mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details of cities/towns that have been identified and allowed to book tickets through mobile telephones;

(c) whether it is also a fact that during the next financial year *i.e.* 2005-06 this facility is going to be extended to all the places of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The scheme for purchase of reserved rail tickets through mobile phones has been launched through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC).

(b) Booking of tickets through mobile phone is offered in the following Telecom circles by selected operators:—

Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh (East & West) and West Bengal.

While ticket can be booked from the above telecom circles, the delivery of tickets is done in 139 cities.

(c) to (e) The extension of the facility would depend upon the reach and the number of telecom service providers offering the facility of mobile phone booking.

Container traffic business

603. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have contemplated private players in container traffic business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the advantages envisaged by entrusting the container business to private players;

(d) whether it would lead to retrenchment in railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes sir.